

Application No. 10/626,039
Amendment dated September 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 16, 2004

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended): A method of sawing a relatively thick piece of wooden feed stock simultaneously into a plurality of thinner pieces of wood, comprising the steps of:

- (a) continuously feeding the stock from an upstream input position to a downstream output position;

Application No. 10/626,039
Amendment dated September 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 16, 2004

(b) simultaneously sawing the stock into a plurality of thinner pieces of stock as the stock is fed relative to a plurality of parallel blades by driving the blades in a reciprocating motion comprising alternate cutting and non-cutting strokes;

(c) moving the reciprocating blades alternately upstream and downstream into linearly-offset cutting and non-cutting positions relative to the stock; and

(d) ~~(d)~~ coordinating the reciprocating movement of the blades and the linear offset motion of the blades to thereby permit continuous movement of the stock while the blades are in both the cutting and non-cutting positions and strokes, said coordinating step including:

(i) determining the reciprocation position of the blades; and

(ii) moving a linear offset motion assembly which is connected to said blades linearly in timed relationship with the reciprocation of the blades.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 12 13, wherein the step of reciprocating the blades comprises the step of reciprocating the blades vertically between a cutting downstroke and a non-cutting upstroke.

Application No. 10/626,039
Amendment dated September 16, 2004
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15. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 14, wherein the saw blades move linearly downstream away from the moving stock during the non-cutting stroke of the blades.

16. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 12, wherein the depth of cut of a single cutting stroke of the blades is equal to the sum of the downstream travel of the feed stock during the cutting stroke and the linear upstream travel of the blades from the non-cutting to the cutting position.

17. (Currently Amended): A method of sawing a relatively thick piece of wooden feed stock simultaneously into a plurality of thinner pieces of wood, comprising the steps of:

(a) continuously feeding the stock from an upstream input position to a downstream output position;

(b) simultaneously sawing the stock into a plurality of thinner pieces of stock as the stock is fed relative to a plurality of parallel blades, by driving the blades in a reciprocating motion comprising alternate cutting and non-cutting strokes;

(c) moving the reciprocating blades downstream into a non-cutting position relative to the stock during said non-cutting stroke of said blades, using a linear offset motion assembly; and

Application No. 10/626,039
Amendment dated September 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 16, 2004

(d) moving the reciprocating blades upstream into a cutting and a cutting position relative to the stock during said cutting stroke of said blades, using a linear offset motion assembly.

said alternating upstream and downstream movements of said blades permitting continuous movement of said stock during both said cutting and non-cutting strokes.

18. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 17, wherein the step of reciprocating the blades comprises the step of reciprocating the blades vertically between a cutting downstroke and a non-cutting upstroke.

19. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 18, wherein the saw blades move linearly downstream away from the moving stock during the non-cutting stroke of the blades.

20. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 17, wherein the depth of cut of a single cutting stroke of the blades is equal to the sum of the downstream travel of the feed stock during the cutting stroke and the linear upstream travel of the blades from the non-cutting to the cutting position.